

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-11. (Canceled).

12. (New) An image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus for receiving, storing and reconstructing a coded image signal fed from an image signal transmitting apparatus for use in a communication environment in which errors are likely to occur, said apparatus comprising:

a storage and reconstruction control unit, which outputs an intra-frame request signal directing, in accordance with a request for storage, the image signal transmitting apparatus to transmit the coded image signal in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded, and also outputs a storage start signal for carrying out a storage starting operation; and

a coded signal storage unit, which extracts, in accordance with the storage start signal, the information indicating the coding mode of the entirety of an image from the coded image signal transmitted from the image signal transmitting apparatus, and starts storing the coded image signal when it is detected that the input coding image is the one in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded.

13. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the intra-frame request signal is repetitively output at a predetermined interval, during the time in which the storing operation of the coded image signal is being carried out.

14. (New) An image signal transmission apparatus for transmitting a coded image signal for use in a communication environment in which errors are likely to occur, said apparatus comprising:

an image coding unit for coding an input image signal and transmitting the thus coded image signal to an image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus; and

a coding control unit which receives an intra-frame request signal sent from the image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus and detects frequency of error occurrences, so as to control the frequency of the coded intra-frame coded image signal in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded, in accordance with the frequency of the intra-frame request signal and that of the error occurrences.

15. (New) An image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus for receiving, storing and reproducing a coded image

signal for use in a communication environment in which errors are likely to occur, said apparatus comprising:

a storage and reconstruction control unit, which transmits a reconstruction start signal directing the start of reconstruction of the coded image signal stored in a coded signal storage unit, in accordance with a request for reconstruction, and

an image decoding unit, which extracts, in accordance with the reconstruction start signal, the information indicating the coding mode of the entirety of an image from the coded image signal output from the coded signal storage unit, and starts reconstructing the coded image signal when it is detected that the input coding image is the one in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded.

16. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

an image decoding unit decoding the coded image signal, wherein said storage and reconstruction control unit directs said image decoding unit to start image reconstruction by decoding the coded image signal stored in said coded signal storage unit.

17. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said storage and

reconstruction control unit requests the transmission of the coded image signal in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame encoded from the image signal transmitting apparatus by temporarily closing a communication circuit used for transmitting the coded image signal.

18. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the information indicating the coding mode is extracted from header information.

19. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said header information is header information associated with the MPEG-4 standard.

20. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

a coded signal storage unit, which stores the coded signal when said image decoding unit detects that the input coding image is one in which the entirety of an image is intra-frame coded.

21. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said storage and reconstruction control unit requests the transmission of the coded image signal in which the entirety of an image is intra-

frame encoded from the image signal transmitting apparatus by temporarily closing a communication circuit used for transmitting the coded image signal.

22. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the information indicating the coding mode is extracted from header information.

23. (New) The image signal storage and reconstruction apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said header information is header information associated with the MPEG-4 standard.